

President's Report May 2023

Maintenance

Modular building – Still pending the electrical panels

Chittim Upgrades – Construction began on May 10th

Briscoe Building – Waiting on architectural plans for the remodel of several classrooms in the current Sul Ross Building in Uvalde to accommodate the new Surgery Tech classroom and Lab.

Legislative

HB 1960 has been voted out of the House. However, after extensive negotiations we were able to secure an amendment that would delay the implementation until 2026. It now goes to the Senate and the process will repeat itself. I am traveling to Austin on May 11th to visit with our Senators on the best strategy moving forward.

HB 1 – the budget bill. Is currently in conference committee. Generally, these meetings are private. The budget includes level funding for Community Colleges, plus \$650 million extra to fund the new community college funding model. Included in the budget is a Budget Rider submitted by Rep. T. King to help offset the impact of Sul Ross downward expansion. The rider is in Article XI (not funded). We are working with T. King and his staff to try to get it funded through the conference committee, will also discuss with Senators on the 11th.

HB 8 – New funding Bill – has passed the House and was voted out of the Senate Sub Committee on Higher Education. It still has a couple of hurdles in the Senate, but at this point we have very good indication that it will be passed. This bill will be transformational for community colleges, especially for us. We will have more detailed information at the June Board Meeting.

Other

Met with the Humanities Club on their cross-campus research project – Safety Post Robb Massacre.

Attended and spoke with Knippa ISD seniors at the graduate luncheon hosted by Knippa Lutheran Church.

Met with Judge Mitchell and Mayor McLaughlin on additional avenues for funding the Active Shooter Training Facility.

Attended and spoke with Eagle Pass ISD Early College High School graduates. Had good conversations with Eagle Pass Mayor Salinas and school district Deputy Superintendent Cox.

Reminder, we are collaborating with the Texas Tribune to host a panel discussion titled Uvalde: Recovery, Resilience, and Healing on May 20th in the Tate Auditorium.

Graduation

On Tuesday May 9th we reached out to San Antonio Weather Service Office for a detailed forecast for Friday and Saturday. Their forecast stated 80%+ chance of rain Friday and 90% chance of rain Saturday with possibility of lightning both days. On Wednesday after noting no improvement in the forecast we made the decision to go with our alternative plan. We had multiple vendors scheduled for the ceremonies and also recognize that many of our students have families traveling from out of town. We are cognizant of our responsibility to make timely decisions and thus made the decision on Wednesday to reschedule graduation.

The ceremonies will occur on May 19th and 20th at 5pm and 8pm at the Uvalde County FairPlex. Attached you will see the breakdown for each of the ceremonies as well as a diagram of where to park and meet once at the site. We can coordinate attendance and conferring of degrees at our board meeting on May 18.

Upcoming Meeting/Events

5/18	May Board Meeting
5/19	Commencement Ceremony (Rescheduled due to weather) 5pm & 8pm
5/20	Commencement Ceremony (Rescheduled due to weather) 5pm & 8pm
5/20	Texas Tribune Panel Discussion – Recovery, Resilience and Healing (Tate) 9am-2:30pm
6/15	Board Meeting & Budget Workshop
7/20	Board Meeting if necessary